

FEB 13 2006

**PATTERSON &
SHERIDAN, LLP**
— ATTORNEYS AT LAW

3040 Post Oak Blvd, Suite 1500
Houston, TX 77056-6582
TEL 713.623.4844
FAX 713.623.4846

FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

DATE: February 13, 2006
FILE NO: ROC920010079US1 (IBMK10079)
TO: MAIL STOP AMENDMENT
Examiner Ronald Laneau
FAX NO: 1-571-273-8300
FROM: Gero G. McClellan/cs
PAGE(S) with cover: 13
RE:
TITLE: Systems and Methods for Operating Vending Machines
U.S. SERIAL NO.: 09/848,572
FILING DATE: May 3, 2001
INVENTOR(S): Bates et al.
EXAMINER: Ronald Laneau
GROUP ART UNIT: 3627
CONFIRMATION NO.: 6826

Attached are the following document(s) for the above-referenced application:

Response To Office Action Dated November 16, 2005.

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTE

The document accompanying this facsimile transmission contains information from the law firm of Patterson & Sheridan, L.L.P. which is confidential or privileged. The information is intended to be for the use of the individual or entity named on this transmission sheet. If you are not the intended recipient, be aware that any disclosure, copying, distribution or use of the contents of this faxed information is prohibited. If you have received this facsimile in error, please notify us by telephone immediately so that we can arrange for the retrieval of the original documents at no cost to you.

437265_1.DOC

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

FEB 13 2006

PATENT
App. Ser. No.: 09/848,572
Atty. Dkt. No. ROC920010079US1
PS Ref. No.: IBMK10079

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:
Bates et al.

Serial No.: 09/848,572

Filed: May 3, 2001

For: Systems and Methods for
Operating Vending Machines

§
§
§
§
§
§
§
§

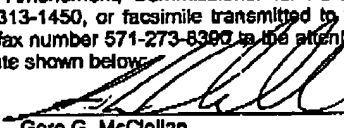
Confirmation No.: 6826

Group Art Unit: 3627

Examiner: Ronald Laneau

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION	
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to fax number 571-273-8380 in the attention of Examiner Ronald Laneau, on the date shown below:	
February 13, 2006 Date	 Gero G. McClellan

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED NOVEMBER 16, 2005

In response to the Office Action dated November 16, 2005, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on February 16, 2006, please enter this response and reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below. While no fees are believed due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge counsel's Deposit Account No. 09-0465/ROC920010079US1 for any fees, including extension of time fees or excess claim fees, required to make this response timely and acceptable to the Office.

The Claims are listed beginning on page 2 of this paper. Remarks/Arguments begin on page 8 of this paper.